

REMARKS

The “inclination supporting plates” now recited by claim 20 are exemplified by elements 21 shown in Fig. 4.

In the present invention, the supporting stands hold the V-shaped groove plate pieces by locking means provided between the inclination supporting plates which accurately position and support the V-shaped groove pieces. Such structure is unique to the present invention and does not exist in Betsuyaku. The structure recited by claim 20 enables the V-shaped groove plate pieces to be held/positioned by the inclination supporting plates so as to accurately mate with a positioning pin. On the contrary, elements 9 in Betsuyaku have no such support and therefore cannot serve to accurately position the container.

In the advisory action of July 9, 2007, the Examiner writes: “Although Betsuyaku discloses a small pin 14 for positioning within concave portion 8 (and guided into that position by item 9), this does not detract from the ability of portion 9 to also position the device on a larger sized fitting projection.” The Examiner’s argument is considered erroneous because in the art (industry) to which Betsuyaku is directed the size of the pin is a single standardized size and there exists no larger or smaller pin. In the advisory action the Examiner also argues: “Screwing or adhering firmly secures the items 9 in place which would allow them to mate with undisclosed fitting projections and to function for accurate positioning.” Again, the argument is considered erroneous because it ignores the fact that the size of the “fitting projection” is a single standardized size in the relevant industry.

If elements 9 are supported only by the positioning ribs 5 as contended by the Examiner, they would easily bend and function as cushions, making it difficult for elements 9 to accurately position and support the container.

Claim 23

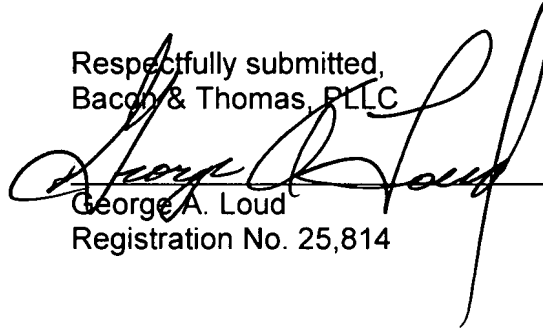
The “support stands 5” of Betsuyaku do not have inclined surfaces on which elements 9 are supported.

Claim 24

The "support stands 5" may be parallel, as noted by the Examiner's remarks in the final action, but the Examiner's comment ignores the fact that claim 24 further recites plural stands on each side of the opening.

Accordingly, reconsideration in view of the present amendments is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Bacon & Thomas, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Loud", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.

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